

STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 246

30p



THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

We at "Starblazer" want to bring you the very best in Fantasy Fiction. To do that we need *your* help.

So that we can produce the kind of stories you want to read, please fill in the questionnaire on this page and send it to "Starblazer", D. C. Thomson & Co. Ltd., 185 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HS.

If you don't want to cut your issue of "Starblazer", you can copy the questionnaire onto a sheet of paper.

And there's a chance to win a full-colour print of one of our new-style wraparound covers!

The senders of the ten letters which we judge to be the most informative will each receive one of the prints. We want to hear from you NOW!

Name **Age**

Address

What kind of science fiction do you most enjoy?
Please tick appropriate boxes.
If you dislike any type of story, place a cross in the box.

SUPERHEROES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FANTASY			
DUNGEONS			SWORD AND			
AND DRAGONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SORCERY			
			POST	<input type="checkbox"/>	HORROR	
			HOLOCAUST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STAR WARS
			ADVENTURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DR. WHO
			HUMOUR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MYSTERY

Where do you normally buy your STARBLAZER?_____

Which is your favourite STARBLAZER story?_____

Which is your favourite character?_____


Which is your favourite science fiction movie?_____

Have you any comments to make about STARBLAZER... good or bad? _____



ON A PLANET ALREADY DECIMATED BY
ITS OWN POLLUTION, AN INDUSTRIAL
METROPOLIS POISONED THE
ATMOSPHERE STILL FURTHER...

...THE PLANET NOW HAD NO NAME, IT
WAS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE, BUT ONCE
IT HAD BEEN CALLED EARTH!



THE OCCUPIERS OF THIS SMOG-LADEN PLANET WERE
A RACE OF BIPEDS KNOWN AS THE SHEK.

FAR ENOUGH ...
DUMP NOW!

AS BRUTAL AND UNCARING AS THE GREAT
MACHINES THEY OPERATED, THE SHEK
DUMPED THEIR WASTE ANYWHERE ...



BACK TO
THE CITY!

NIGHT — AND IN THE
DARKNESS, HUNGRY
CREATURES DESCENDED
UPON THE FESTERING
MOUNTAINS OF GARBAGE.

NIGHT ALSO BROUGHT THE HUNTER ...

STEADY, MY BEAUTIES.
I SMELL THEM TOO ...






RUN — RUN! IT'S
THE MANSLAYER!




LATER —



WHY DO THE SHEK
HATE US, DADDY?

BECAUSE WE ARE
HERE, AND ALIVE.



WHY DO WE HAVE NO
FOOD OF OUR OWN?

BECAUSE THE
GROUND IS DEAD.
NOTHING
GROWS — SHEK
POLLUTION HAS
POISONED THE
SOIL.




ROLF WAS NOT FAR AWAY —









I'VE GOT TO LOSE
THESE HOUNDS.

ABANDONED SHEK
MINEWORKINGS ...



THE MAIN WAY A WARRIOR
OF TUMMALS AND HOLT WAS
BOOM LOTT.

MY ONLY CHANCE!

IT'S NO USE! THE HOUNDS
HAVE MY SCENT...
THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER
ALL THE TIME.

A BRIDGE! DARE
I RISK IT?



THE ROTTEN BRIDGE GAVE WAY —

AAAARGH! I WAS RIGHT,
THEY ARE SMARTER
THAN I AM.



YUAAAAAAAAAAAAAGH!



WATER?

ROLF WAS CARRIED FAR
UNDERGROUND BY THE
SEETHING WATERS.

NOT GOING TO MAKE IT... SO
TIRED... CURRENT TOO
STRONG... DRAGGING ME
UNDER.

GRAB IT!

ROLF WAS HAULED FROM THE RIVER.

WHO ARE YOU?
WHERE AM I?

I'M THE LIBRARIAN ...



... AND THIS IS THE
BAD APPLE — NEW
YORK CITY!

AN ANCIENT CITY ...
BUT WHO BUILT IT?



INSIDE THE ANCIENT LIBRARY —



I SHALL GIVE YOU A KEY. A
KEY TO UNLOCK ALL YOUR
ANCESTORS' SECRETS —
THE KEY TO YOUR TRUE
SELF!

A KEY?

YES! IT'S
CALLED READING.



OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS ROLF LEARNED ALL ABOUT THE SHEK — HOW THEY DESCENDED FROM THEIR GIGANTIC STARSHIPS TO ANNIHILATE MANKIND AND LAY WASTE HIS CIVILISATION ...

... AND WHEN THE INVADERS PLUNDERED EARTH, LEAVING IT ALMOST INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING LIFE.

EARTH PEOPLE WERE SLAUGHTERED AND
GIANT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES BUILT ON
THE KILLING GROUNDS.



BETWEEN LESSONS THE
LIBRARIAN GAVE ROLF A
GUIDED TOUR THROUGH THE
RUINS OF NEW YORK.

WHO WAS HE, AND
WHAT'S HE CARRYING?

A WARRIOR ...
BUT WHO WAS
THERE TO FIGHT
BEFORE THE
SHEK INVADED?

HE WAS A SOLDIER — A
WARRIOR AND
FREEDOM FIGHTER!
AND HE'S CARRYING A
GUN.

WELL ... OUR ANCESTORS
USED TO FIGHT EACH
OTHER.





SOME DAYS LATER — ON THE SURFACE —

STEADY, NOW ...

EASY ... EASY ...

I SPIT ON YOU!







IT'S A HUMAN, AND LOOK — IT'S
PRETENDING TO BE A
WARRIOR. HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

IT'S A JOKE!




JOKE'S OVER!





HE'S THROWING
ROCKS AT US.



THE "ROCKS" EXPLODED—



WHO ARE YOU?

A FREEDOM
FIGHTER! AND YOU?

MIA... I'M
A SURVIVOR!

LATER THAT SAME DAY...

WHERE ARE THOSE
TWO WHO JOINED US?

WANDERED OFF
SOMEWHERE.

BEFORE ANYBODY COULD ANSWER

A SHEK
SKYFANG!





WHEE WAS NOT
FAR AWAY —



ROLF HAD ANTICIPATED SHEK RETALIATION,
AND WAS WAITING IN AMBUSH.

MISSILE LOCKED
ON TARGET — FIRE!

CRUMP

SCRATCH ONE
SKYFANG!

I WANT YOU ALL TO
COME WITH ME.

WHERE TO?

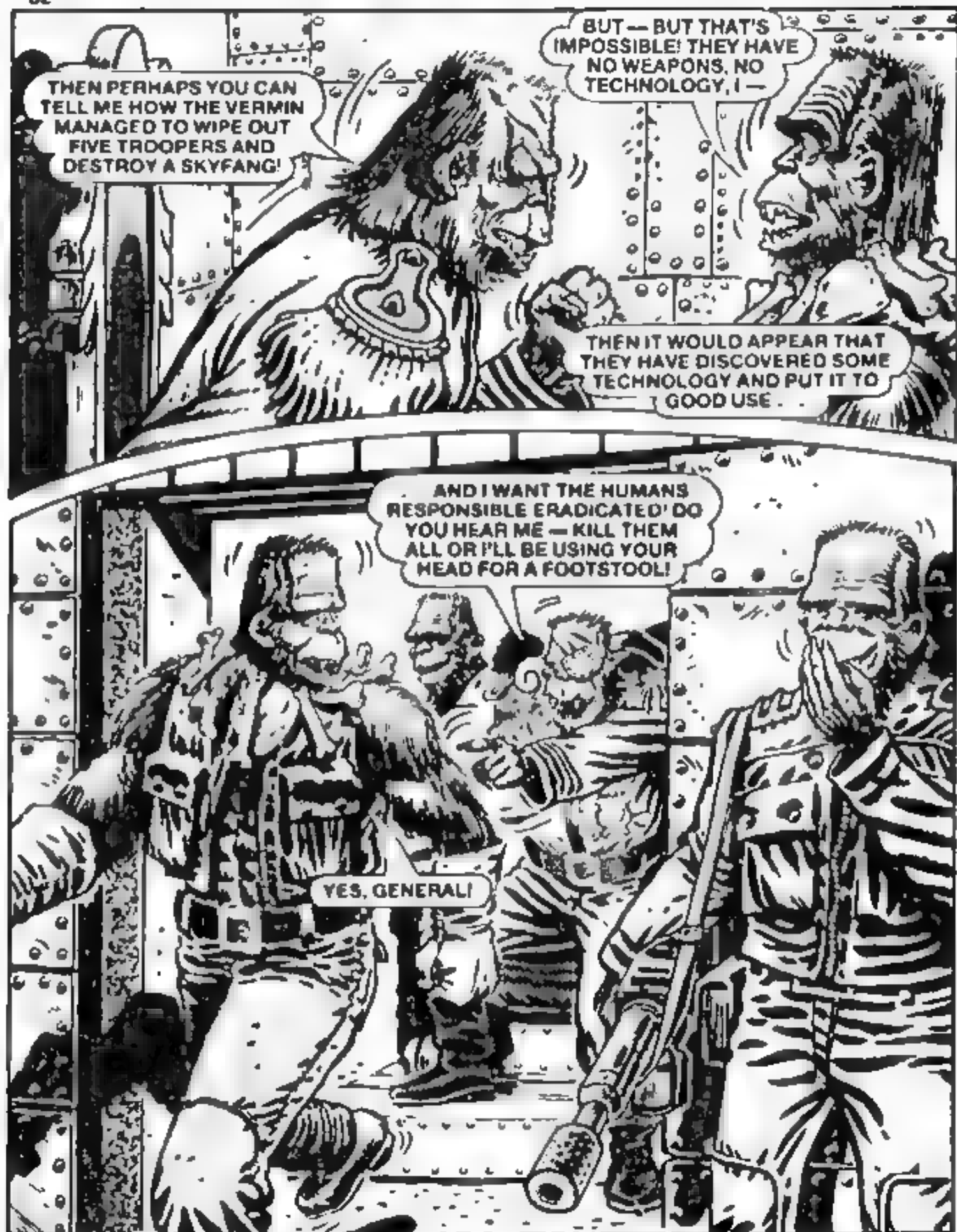
SOMEWHERE SAFE!

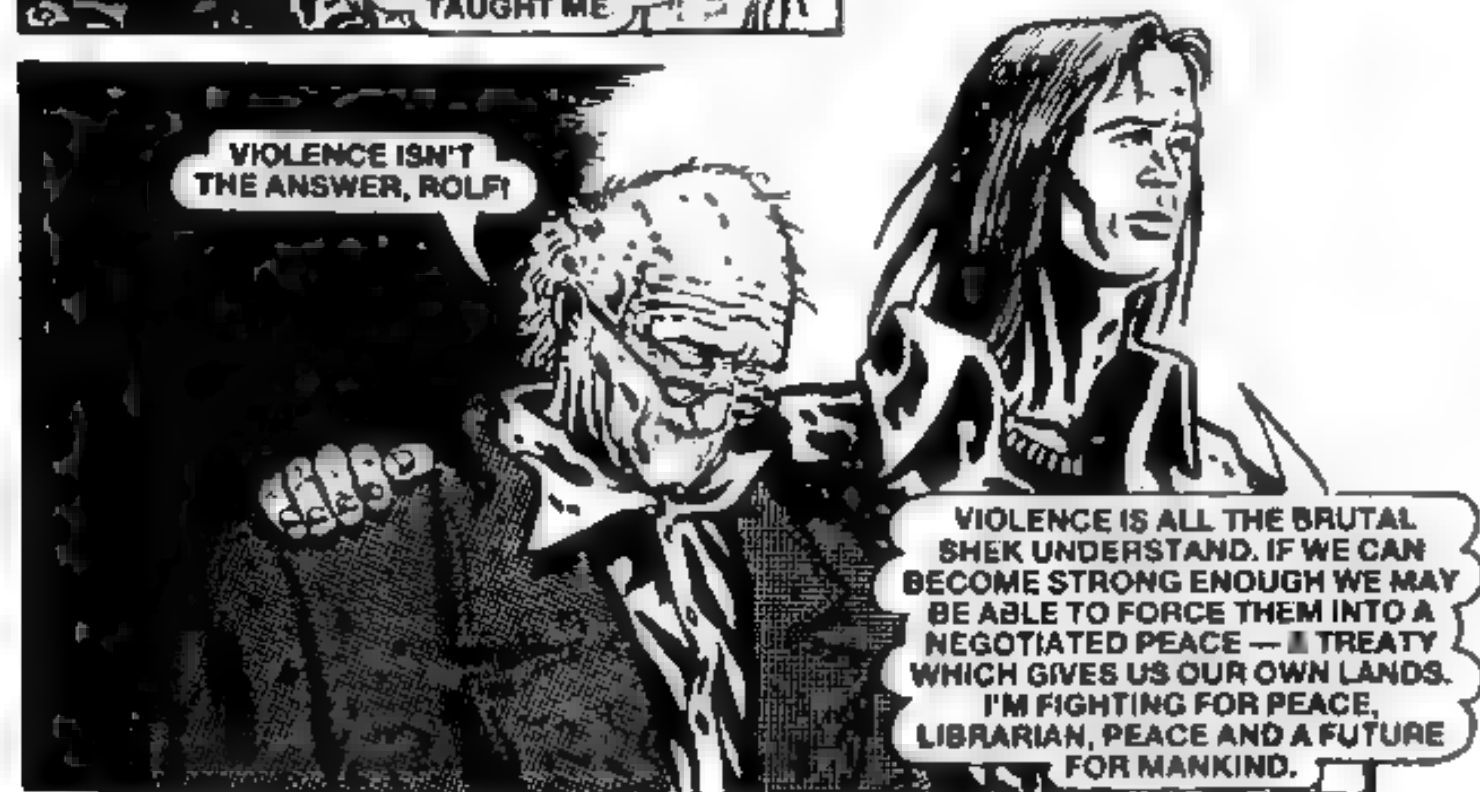
DEEP WITHIN THE SHEK CITADEL

BRING THE
MANSLAYER TO ME.

AT ONCE,
GENERAL MORLAK.







OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ROLF HAND-PICKED AND TRAINED AN ELITE GUERRILLA FORCE. STRIKING FROM THE HIDDEN CITY OF NEW YORK THEY BROUGHT CHAOS TO THE ALIEN INVADERS.



A SHEK ARMoured PATROL WAS
SENT TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY
THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

NO SIGN OF
THE EARTHERS!

BUT THEY WERE
CLOSE AT HAND—

KEEP POUNDING THEM!

CONFUSED, THE SHEK BLASTED
AWAY AIMLESSLY—



WUT! WAS A MAN POSSESSED ...



... POSSESSED BY A HATRED OF THE SHER.



THE BATTLE WAS SOON OVER.

GET THAT FOOD
UNLOADED BEFORE
ANY ROVING SKYFANGS
SPOT US.

NEARBY—

SO, THEY TOOK THE BAIT
... HOW PREDICTABLE!

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS MADE THEIR
WAY INTO THE NEW YORK MUSEUM
THAT THEY HAD AN UNINVITED GUEST.

AN ANCIENT HUMAN CITY
... NOW I HAVE THEM.



SUDDENLY...



THE MANSLEYER WAS TAKEN TO ROLF.

LOOK WHO WE CAUGHT
SPYING ON THE CITY.

WHAT SHALL WE DO
WITH HIM, ROLF?

KILL HIM!





NO! DON'T DO IT — YOU CAN'T JUST SHOOT HIM IN COLD BLOOD.



ALIVE... NOT DEAD.





AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE SNEK CITADEL.





ROLF, WAIT! EVEN IF THE
MANSLAYER IS TELLING THE
TRUTH EVEN IF AGAINST ALL THE
ODDS YOUR FAMILY ARE STILL
ALIVE, YOU HAVEN'T A HOPE OF
RESCUING THEM FROM THE BHEK
CITADEL.

I HAVE GOT TO KNOW,
ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

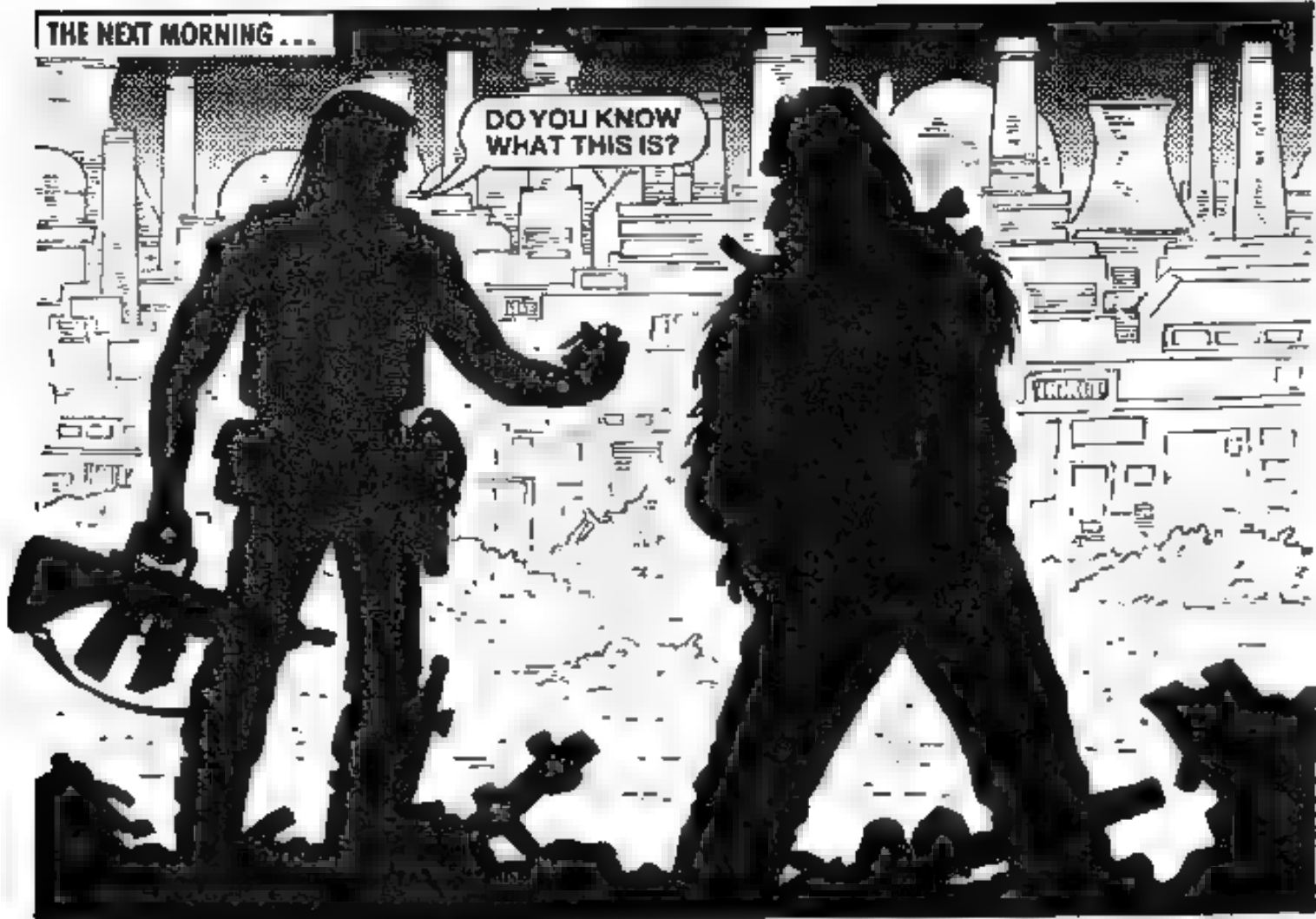
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU'RE
LEAVING BEHIND? WITHOUT YOU TO LEAD
THEM THEY WILL BECOME ANIMALS
AGAIN. WHAT'S TO BECOME OF YOUR
FUTURE FOR MANKIND?

TELL THEM TO FIND
THEIR OWN WAY ...
I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE
A HERO.

LIKE IT OR NOT ROLF,
YOU'RE ALL THEY'VE
GOT

THE NEXT MORNING ...

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THIS IS?



IT'S A FRAGMENTATION
GRENADE. ONE PULL ON
THIS RING AND SEVEN
SECONDS LATER YOU'RE
MINCEMEAT!





THE DECEPTION WORKED—

TAKE ME TO MY
PARENTS—NOW!

THIS WAY!



THEY'RE
IN HERE.



FATHER? MOTHER?





YOU'VE GOT SEVEN
SECONDS TO SAY
GOODBYE TO YOUR
FAMILY HA' HA'

WHILE IN NEW YORK—

THE SHEK HAVE FOUND US!
THEY'RE BLOWING THE TUNNELS.

WE'RE CAUGHT IN A
TRAP... WHERE'S
ROLF?

ROLF HAS GONE AND
HE'S TAKEN THE
MANSLAYER WITH HIM.



BACK IN THE SHEK CITADEL—

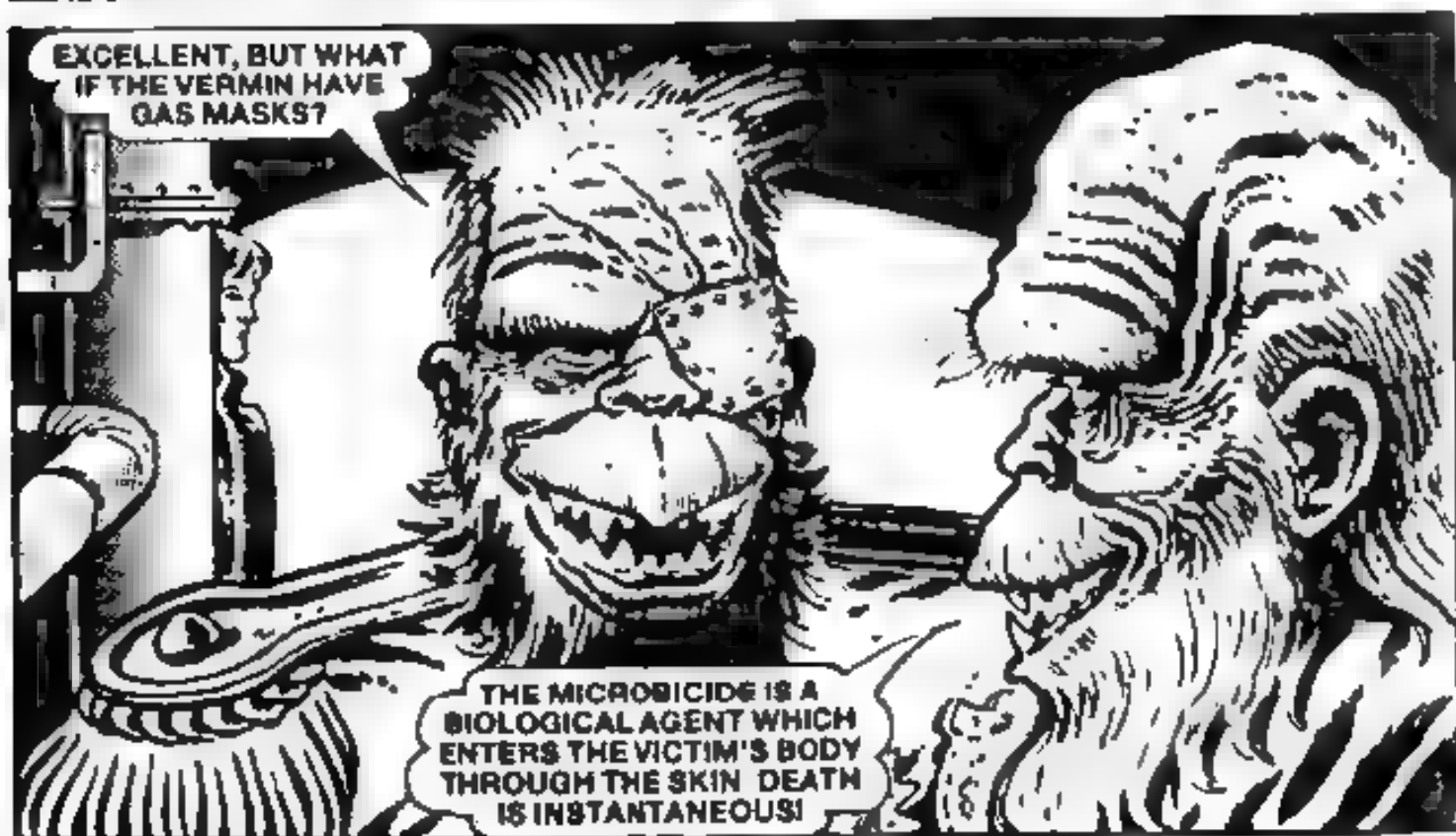





ROLF FOUND HIMSELF IN
A HUGE LABORATORY.

I AM READY FOR YOUR
DEMONSTRATION, KREK.
SHOW ME HOW YOU INTEND
TO ANNIHILATE THE HUMAN
RACE.

VERY WELL, GENERAL.
THE REBELS ARE NOW
SEALED WITHIN THEIR
CAVERN STRONGHOLD.
THE SEALS ARE
MICROBE TIGHT SO
THERE IS NO CHANCE
OF ANY LEAKAGE...





THIS IS THE PIPELINE
WHICH CARRIES THE
MICROBICIDE TO NEW
YORK... HMMMMMMM...
I WONDER.

VENT
CLOSED
OPEN



I'VE BEEN SPOTTED!



TIME TO GO

ONE OF THE LAB
ANIMALS HAS ESCAPED.
— AFTER HIM!












BUT—



EM A
CATCH NET!



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE
THAT EASILY! I'M GOING TO
TEAR YOU APART WITH MY
BARE HANDS — RUNT!

THE MANSLAYER!



HE'S CRUSHING ME!







I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THIS VERMIN INTO THE CITADEL. WELL YOU CAN JOIN HIM IN THE MICROBICIDE CHAMBER.

GENERAL — I-!!

TAKE THEM AWAY!

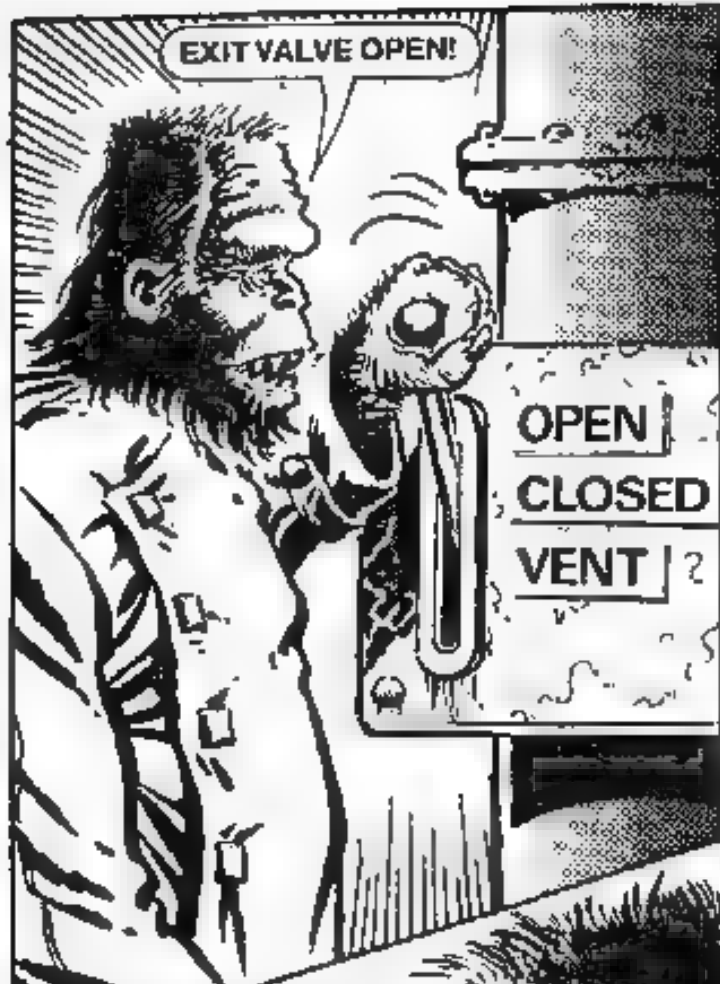
ROLF AND MANSLEY WERE THROWN INTO THE MICROBICIDE CHAMBER.



LET ME OUT! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

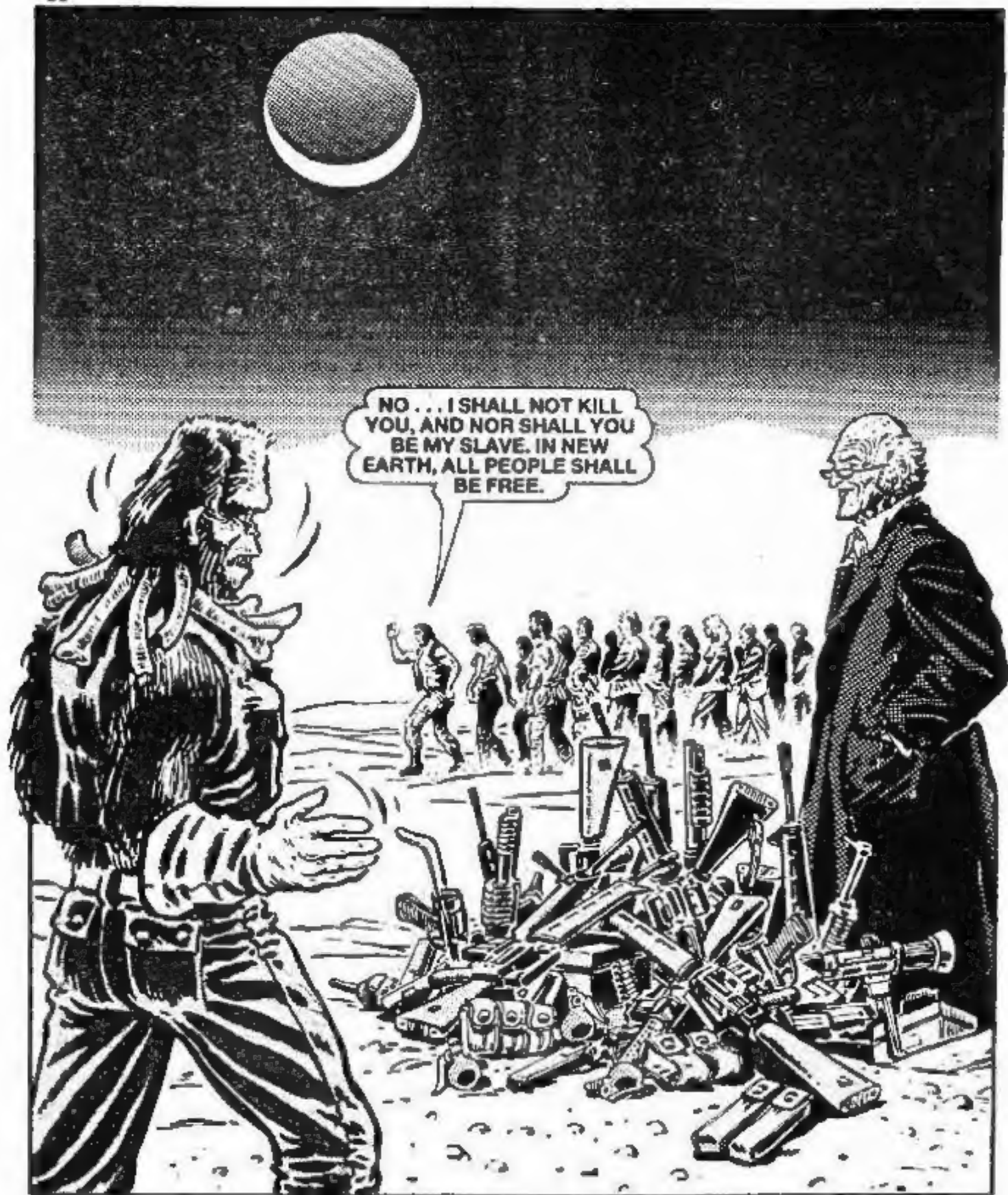
ROLF WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DID THEY CAPTURE YOU TOO?

NO FATHER. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU.



NOOOOO! THE VALVE IS IN THE WRONG POSITION! THE MICROBICIDE IS COMING THROUGH OUR VENTILATION SYSTEM.

WE'RE DOOMED!



**DON'T
MISS**

**THIS MONTH'S OTHER
ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**

STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES

No. 247

30p



NOW ON SALE

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

When Earth was over-run by the brutal Shek race, man was driven into the wilds. No matter where they hid from the bloodthirsty invaders, nobody was safe from the Manslayer and his deadly howlhounds. Nobody, that is, until a fleeing man stumbled upon a secret, deep underground in the remnants of an old Earth civilisation. A secret that was the key to Earth's delivery from the hands of the Shek.

